

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OEP-01 SCEM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 EUR-25 EA-11 RSR-01 /107 W
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P R 201500 Z APR 73

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 305

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 0225

USINFO FOR

OR/ M, INE

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ENRG, IZ

SUBJECT: REACTION TO PRESIDENT' S ENERGY MESSAGE

REF: USIA 6944 CIRCULAR

1. REACTIONS TO ENERGY MESSAGE CARRIED FRONT PAGE ALL BAGHDAD PAPERS APRIL 19 BUT NOT LEAD STORY. BRIEF ARTICLES, PRESUMABLY FROM WIRE SERVICES, CARRIED ONLY MAJOR POINTS UNDER HEADLINES " U. S. ATTEMPT TO SOLVE POWER CRISIS" AND " NIXON CONFESSES THAT AMERICA FACING DANGEROUS ENERGY DEFICIT." PARTY PAPER ATH-THAWRA INCLUDED IN ITS ARTICLE ACCOUNT OF CLOSING OF INDEPENDENT GAS STATIONS IN U. S. DUE TO LACK OF FUEL AND CITED THIS AS EXAMPLE OF WEAKENING POWER OF U. S.

2. ON APRIL 20 SEMI- OFFICIAL BAGHDAD OBSERVER' S TOP STORY WAS HEADLINED " CAPITALIST WORLD TESTLESS OVER ENERGY CRISIS" AND SAID COMMON MARKET COMMISSIONER FOR ENERGY WILL VISIT U. S. IN MAY AS FIRST STEP TOWARD DEVELOPING COOPERATION BETWEEN EEC, US AND JAPAN. PAPER ALSO SAID SENATE' S REACTION TO PRESIDENT' S ENERGY MESSAGE WAS THAT IT DID NOT GO FAR ENOUGH IN SEEKING TO REDUCE U. S. DEPENDENCE ON MIDDLE EAST OIL. PAPER SAID U. S. MEASURES WOULD RESULT IN HIGHER PRICES AND GREATER
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COMPETITION WHICH WILL BECOME EVIDENT IN 1975 PRICE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. ON APRIL 20 OFFICIAL ATH- THAWRA AND AL- JUMHURIYAH DEVOTED FRONT PAGE ARTICLES TO REACTION OF U. S. OFFICIALS TO SAUDI PETMIN YAMANI'S ALLEGED STATEMENT THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD NOT INCREASE PRODUCTION UNLESS U. S. CHANGED ITS POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL. U. S. OFFICIALS QUOTED AS CONFIDENT OF CONTINUED FLOW OF SAUDI OIL IN SPITE OF CONTINUING U. S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL.

4. TV AND RADIO COVERAGE LIKELY TO FOLLOW SAME THEMES SINCE THEY RELY ON PRESS FOR MOST NEWS STORIES. NO EDITORIALS HAVE YET APPEARED.

5. COMMENT: IRAQ STRONGLY ADVOCATES USE OF OIL AS A WEAPON AGAINST U. S. POLICIES TOWARD ISRAEL AND IRAQI MEDIA HAVE FOR SOME MONTHS HIGHLIGHTED ENERGY CRISIS TO DEMONSTRATE WHAT THEY SEE AS GROWING VULNERABILITY OF U. S. TO ARAB OIL POWER.

LOWRIE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BAGHDA00225
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730446/aaaaisic.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 USIA 6944 CIRCULAR
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Oct-2001 by averetam>; APPROVED <08 FEB 2002 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980126
Subject: REACTION TO PRESIDENT' S ENERGY MESSAGE
TAGS: ENRG, IZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005